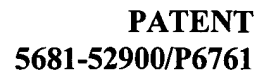


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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date indicated below.

B. Noël Kivlin

Name of Registered Representative

B. Signature 2-20-04 Date

**AMENDMENT; RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION OF DECEMBER 22, 2003**

Box AF  
Commissioner for Patents  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Please amend the case as follows:

**Amendments to the Figures** begin on page 2 of this paper.

**Amendments to the Specification** begin on page 3 of this paper.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims that begins on page 4 of this paper.

**Remarks** begin on page 10 of this paper.

**Amendments to the Figures:**

Please add Figure 7. No new matter has been added.